

App. No. 10/729,119

Reply to Office action of October 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Summary of the Amendment**

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated October 27, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration are courteously requested. By way of the present amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, and 15 are amended. Further, claims 19 to 25 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Thus, claims 1 to 18 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 1, 7, and 13 being independent claims.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 to 18 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,270,393 (Kubota). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the present amendment.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended to recite that a polishing fluid included a polyacrylic acid surfactant or salt thereof, the surfactant having a molecular weight between about 2000 and about 240,000. In contrast, Kubota discloses a polishing fluid that includes a surfactant having an aliphatic structure (component d throughout the specification). Some examples of the aliphatic surfactants disclosed by Kubota include polymers that are known to have relatively small molecular weights. However, Kubota fails to disclose that the surfactant has a molecular weight as large as the range recited in the pending claims. Further, Kubota fails to teach or suggest that the surfactant is a polyacrylic acid-based molecule. Because Kubota fails to teach or suggest the features of the independent claims 1, 7, and 13, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

H. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this

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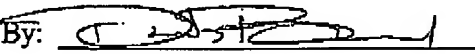
application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: JAN. 27, 2006

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